



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Huntington District

# Castle Comments

Vol. 47, No. 4

April 2002

## Four basins flood



*Photo by Steve Wright*

*Memorial Boulevard on the southside of Huntington is impassible after 4.4 inches of rain fell within a 24-hour period March 19.*

### **Creek concerns Huntington residents**

By STEVE WRIGHT  
Public Affairs

Heavy rains in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio in late March resulted in a laundry list of challenges to the district. Throughout the region there was localized flooding and a slide in the Grundy, Va. construction project excavation area.

The flood-prone Fourpole creek spilled into Enslow Park, a residential area on Huntington's south side, damaging 50 homes and stranding residents and motorists. In fact, flooding is so prevalent, this area of Fourpole Creek and the Enslow Park are the subject of a multi-agency flood evaluation, to include the Corps.

Even so, agitated residents looked somewhere to blame. One concern of the Huntington community was that water built up in Fourpole Creek because the Corps constructed a pumping station on the west end of Huntington, located at the

floodwall, did not start pumping in time to prevent flooding.

The reality is that the residential neighborhood is well above the ponding area and operation of the pumping station has no effect on flooding in Enslow Park. However, city workers tasked with operating the pump station started to operate the pumping station before the Corps' operations manual instructed. Fourpole Creek flows directly into the Ohio River in Huntington through several gate openings at the ponding area. These gates remain open and the creek is free flowing unless the Ohio River reaches a stage above the elevation of the ponding area at which time the gates are closed and the pumps are turned on. Despite criticism to the contrary, this is exactly what city workers did.

Also, citizens expressed concern that KineticPark; a construction project located  
***See flood page 8***

## *Inside this Issue*



• The rugged terrain around the town of Grundy presents many challenges to the Corps contractor at the town's redevelopement site. Read about the latest challenge after part of the hillside slipped after heavy rainfall on page 2 and on page 4. Rep. Rick Boucher, D-Va. says Grundy is a Corps signature project at the latest groundbreaking.



Who are the people shouting "rotten to the Corps" and what is their intent? Page 5 explains.

# Contractor handles massive slide at Grundy

By ELIZABETH SLAGEL  
Public Affairs

Just a week after a ground breaking ceremony for the Grundy, Va. fire station, a mudslide swept down between the Grundy redevelopment site and fill site taking out a portion of railroad tracks.

Corps Project Engineer Lisa Richardson said the project contractor, Bush and Burchett was 100 percent devoted to clearing the site and getting trains running again. Train engines sounded again 2 a.m. March 21, just three days after the slide.

Removal of the slide was no easy task dealing with 10,500 cubic yards of rock, dirt and trees entangled in power lines. "Doing a lot of work in a small space at that high of tempo was the

danger," Richardson said.

The tracks and railroad bed were the only infrastructure interrupted by the slide.

The steep mountains mixed with heavy rain have presented many challenges to the contractor. They are looking into other areas that may need stabilized to prevent further slippage.

*Nearly 400 feet of railroad tracks were taken out when this hillside caved March 19. No one was hurt while the contractor Bush and Burchett worked around the clock to clear the slide. (Unknown photographer)*



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Vol. 47, No. 4  
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**Castle Comments** is an unofficial publication under AR 360-1, published monthly for members of the Huntington District and retirees. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. Letters to the Editor are encouraged. Articles or photographic submissions are welcome and should arrive in the Public Affairs Office by the 18th of each month preceding publication. Address mail to: Editor, Castle Comments, 502 Eighth Street, Huntington, WV 25701-2070. Telephone (304) 529-5452 or FAX: (304) 529-5076. Circulation: 1,600. Available on the Internet at <https://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/pa/cc/current/cc.pdf>

## Smiles out to



Engineering and Construction's Terry Noble and Russ Witten who each let a South Point High School student shadow them March 28.



Engineering and Construction's Russ Witten, Ken Woodard, Butch Rogers and Paul Schlatt and Operations and Readiness Rebecca Rutherford and Planning Branch's Amy Frantz for speaking about their careers to more than 30 Putnam County high school students and teachers April 2. Thanks also to Kim Adkins for her assistance in escorting the students.



PM-PD and EC-MR for hosting two student interns from South Point School.



Programs and Project Management's Dwight Smith and Engineering and Construction's Susan Fields and Ken Woodard for judging the secondary science fair at Teays Valley Christian School in February.



Planning Branch's Dan Bailey and Engineering and Construction's Ken Woodard for judging the regional ASCI science fair at Teays Valley Christian School in March.

# Commander's Corner

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## Chief sets new environmental operating principles to follow



By COL JOHN RIVENBURGH  
District Engineer

We are the US Army Corps of Engineers. We've been who we are for over 226 years and now our 50<sup>th</sup> Chief of Engineers is leading us into a new era. Last month, he announced a new set of environmental operating principles. They are how we will work now and in the future. We will complete chain teaching of the principles, but more importantly we'll work diligently to include them in everything we do. The good news is, we are already off to a good start. We have programs and projects meeting many of the principles. Let me walk you through them.

Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life. **We are bound by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), no matter what we do. Our folks, especially those in the field, do this while doing their business as opposed to doing it because of NEPA.**

Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances. **We have scoped our Darby Creek projects to meet the**

**expectations of those who live in the watershed, as opposed to us just telling them how we are going to do the project.**

- Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another. **We've got a solid mitigation plan for our Marmet Lock construction project and we will begin Greenup Lock mitigation before we start any other work.**

Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems. **We included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and West Virginia Department of Natural Resource personnel as we scoped emergency stream bank protection projects in areas devastated by the July 2001 flood. This ensured we executed our work in ways to minimize impacts to habitats while at the same time protecting public property.**

Seek ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work. **Our virtual Ohio River Mainstem System Study team is building environmental impacts into our economic model and we are looking at endangered species along the mainstem.**

Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work. **We are using new technologies throughout the district including sand filters, recirculating sand filter systems, wetlands and within the Section 531, Environmental Infrastructure Program peat bio filter treatment systems for household sewage in eastern Kentucky.**

Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities, listen to them actively, and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment. **We have the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy as our non-federal cost share partner on our Darby Creek project in Ohio and we are leading our Division into partnership with the rest of our LRD districts and The Nature Conservancy.**

We are not perfect and we are not 100 percent in compliance with these environmental operating principles, but we're off to a great start. Keep thinking smart, look for opportunities to do the right thing, and we will meet our Chief's intent – to make our nation a better place to live than it is today.



# **Construction going for project 20 years in making** **Fire station first to go on new site**

By CATHY ST. CLAIR  
News Editor, Virginia  
Mountaineer

Ground was officially broken March 11, marking the start of the Grundy fire station relocation project — a part of the massive Grundy Flood Control Project now underway.

Rep. Rick Boucher, D-Va., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Col. John Rivenburgh and representatives of the contractor, Ross Brothers Construction, of Ashland, Ky., were among those on hand along with fire department officials, town of Grundy representatives, members of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors and members of the public to celebrate the occasion.

Boucher noted the construction of the new fire station was made possible due to funding from Congress for \$1.2 million.

The new 6,300 square foot building will be constructed with masonry units and will feature a brick veneer. As proposed, the station, which will be located on Rt. 460, three-quarters of a mile west of downtown Grundy, will have four bays capable of housing all of the town's fire and rescue trucks, including a new ladder truck, he added.

"The construction of the new fire station for the town of Grundy is the latest step in the Grundy Flood Control and Redevelopment Project," Boucher said. "We broke ground for this project in October 2000 and as everyone in Grundy can readily see the project is well underway," he said referring to the massive dirt moving at the redevelopment site.

Boucher said by year's end the site should be ready allowing for construction to begin in the new town area.

"The mountain portion will be removed and then construction can begin on the redevelopment site and then very shortly after that, new



*Photo by Steve Wright*

***Dignitaries shovel dirt in a symbolic gesture on top of the ground where fire trucks like the one seen in the background will be housed.***

businesses can be built on that site and some existing businesses can be moved to that location," he said. "The project is on track and it is going to create a tremendous economic boost for the town of Grundy and the residents of Buchanan County."

Boucher noted that the unique partnership which exists between the town, the Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Transportation on the project is what is making it all possible.

"This project is truly an example of what cooperation among local, state and federal governments can achieve, and I want to say a word of thanks to all who have been involved in making Grundy that kind of model and also making it a signature project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," Boucher added.

He noted that positive coverage of the project from Grundy to New York, to Washington, D.C. is further evidence of the magnitude of the project and the interest in it.

"It truly is a model for what can be done when people in communities are working together," Boucher said.

The congressman also recognized the Army Corps of Engineers and its staff in the Huntington District Office, many of whom were present for the ceremony for their guidance and expertise in the technical development and construction of the project.

"Everyone is to be commended for having a big vision," Boucher said. "You know you don't accomplish great things unless you have that kind of foresight. The people of Grundy have that foresight. I commend you for it."

Rivenburgh also briefly addressed the gathering, expressing his delight at being a part of the project.

"The Grundy redevelopment and flood project is not for me and for many of us here, but it's for little Caleb and all his peers who will live in Grundy and enjoy their life here in the future," Rivenburgh said.

He referred to Assistant Fire Chief Danny Hawks' three-year-old son,

Caleb, who was present to help his father and other firefighters and town officials to lift ceremonial shovels full of dirt.

"You are a patient town," Rivenburgh continued. "This project has been in the works for a long time . . . a little microbe that has been growing and we're grateful for how patient you are. I look up on the hill and I know you've had some dirt and some dust and you're going to have some more dust and this is the easy part because we haven't started the downtown and neither has VDOT. I'm grateful for how willing you are to let us do our work as your town starts to turn into what it really should be, as kind of a centerpiece for how we should all work together as the congressman so eloquently stated."

"The Corps of Engineers is here and we will finish the job and do it right," Rivenburgh said. "We will meet your needs and we will build it right."

Ray Pennington, the contractor on the fire station project thanked the town and the Corps for allowing the company to be a part of the Grundy project.

"We will give you a top quality project," Pennington said.



*Photo by Steve Wright*  
**Young Grundy townsman Caleb Hawks helps shovel dirt during the ceremony.**

# Protestors claim rotten to the "Corps"



*Photo by Elizabeth Slagel*

*Protestors crowd the only entrance to the Corps building once again.*

## OVEC protests Corps for issuing permits

By ELIZABETH SLAGEL  
Public Affairs

It is lunchtime and there is a crowd outside the only exit of the Huntington District building forming what looks like a press conference with people standing at a podium and news cameras everywhere.

One man dressed in a hazardous waste getup yells, "Let's raise some hell."

"We're going to raise some hell. That's what Laura would want us to do," group organizer Janet Fout says remembering Laura Forman; the coordinator who collapsed and died at the first rally back in December.

Beginning the protest with a moment of silence to remember their leader Fout begins her speech. The gatherers are from the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition otherwise known as OVEC.

OVEC is a nonprofit organization concerned with protecting the environment. Since it was formed in 1987, most issues the group has taken on are local

ones as it is based in Huntington.

According to OVEC's website, the group publicized pollution problems at the Ashland Oil Refinery in Catlettsburg, Ky. in the late 80s and early 90s. They worked to make the public aware of the company's emission violations staging letter writing and telephone campaigns to USEPA offices and Kentucky Division for Air Quality calling for action against the company. Likewise they organized petitions and rallies in effort to get Congress and Senator Byrd to enforce the environmental regulations.

The group, with the help of organized surrounding communities, takes credit for the U.S. Department of Justice fining Ashland Oil \$5 million and forcing them to bring their refineries into full compliance.

Another heated issue the group has taken on was the proposed Apple Grove Pulp and Paper Mill that was ultimately axed because of environmental opposition. The group also acts as a watchdog to

**See protestors page 12**



# *C.J. Hamilton top resource manager of the year*

## **Manager noted for ingenuity and managing busy project**

By **ELIZABETH SLAGEL**  
**Public Affairs**

Every year, the Huntington District Operations and Readiness Division selects the most outstanding of its projects and resource managers.

These selections are forwarded to Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for competition and then on to Headquarters if won at the division level.

This year's most outstanding are Summersville Resource Manager C.J. Hamilton and R.D. Bailey Lake.

According to the submission entry, Hamilton was chosen as district resource manager of the year for a number of reasons. His package goes on to reveal the many challenges of operating Huntington's premiere lake.

One accomplishment is Summersville's 11 years without an accident, which equates to 250,000 Corps personnel and 140,000 contractor hours accident free.

Hamilton and his staff are noted for identifying some needed recreational upgrades. The aging, overused and inadequately designed infrastructure needed some changes, mostly to accommodate the American's with Disabilities Act. Hamilton grasped the project with such initiative that he was chosen to prepare the district's first major recreation modernization proposal.

At the center of West Virginia's tourism hot spots, Hamilton and his staff deal with a large volume of visitors. Concerned over his project's growing popularity, he contracted with the Waterways Experiment Station (WES) to study the overcrowding. His suspicions were right as WES concluded that the project was at or near its capacity. This report stands as testimony in deterring any more commercial growth.

Dealing with the commercial interests of a touristy project is another area to commend Hamilton. He is said to have partnered with Huntington's Real Estate Division and Office of Counsel to develop the first Commercial Business License Program that requires businesses bringing customers on to the project to have adequate liability insurance as well as control some of their other impacts.

This year has proved a busy year for Hamilton and his staff. Outside of their normal duties, Hamilton and his staff worked closely with event organizers of the 2001 World Rafting Championships, overseeing close security measures as this was the first international sporting event held in the U.S. after the Sept. 11 tragedy.

Also this year, Hamilton saw the third largest flood of record at his project. In addition he finished up his job as principal operations representative for a \$55 million hydroelectric project at Summersville Lake.

All these accomplishments were conducted while still maintaining normal duties and experiencing the third largest flood of record in July.



*File Photo  
C.J. Hamilton as a ranger during his  
tenure at this year's project of the  
year R.D. Bailey Lake.*



*File Photo  
Summersville Lake is one of Huntington District's most visited projects.*

# *R.D. Bailey Lake named project of the year*

## Challenging year and devotion of staff noted at Bailey

By ELIZABETH SLAGEL  
Public Affairs

In choosing among Huntington District's projects, it is easy to see why R.D. Bailey Lake stood out among others this year. The project and its staff withstood four ultimate tests this year.

Flood after flood knocked down cleanup efforts, debilitated the summer recreation season and dumped tons of drift, debris and silt. Although their efforts seemed to be in vain, the project staff kept on going while dealing with challenges never presented before. One such incident was when campers were forced out of their campgrounds and could not leave the project because of high water. The staff set up an emergency campsite on the lawn of the visitor center. They allowed stranded campers to use their restroom facilities and accommodated them in a courteous customer fashion.

In dealing with the floods of the past year, the staff was forced to examine what to do about its recreation facilities of which nearly all lie in flood-prone areas. The project is looking at ways to close some of its flood-prone recreational areas and still serve the public with other downstream recreation areas. Over time, this proposal would greatly save operation and maintenance costs.

Removing drift and debris was a labor intensive chore for the project, especially when mixed with hazardous materials such as propane tanks and chemical drums. To correctly dispose of such products under contract would have cost about \$200,000. Instead, project staff partnered with the West

Virginia Environmental Protection Agency to seek out original owners of the hazardous materials. The cost to rid the project of the hazardous material went down to \$5,000.

Even while facing such challenges, the project has a notable safety record of six years accident free.

Like other Huntington District projects, R.D. Bailey Lake is always looking to provide a public service at minimal cost. The Bailey team eliminated park attendants to collect fees and register campers by installing a self registration fee vault. This method decreased fee collection by \$35,500.

According to its submission package, R.D. Bailey Lake must deal with more real estate issues than any other project in Huntington. These issues include gas well licenses, concessionaire, garden leases and wildlife management lease with West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. The project staff work

closely with this state-run agency as Bailey is also a popular place to harvest trophy white tail deer.

After the Sept. 11 tragedy, the staff took on the rigorous task of 24-hour surveillance after the Department of Defense mandated around-the-clock check on the dams. This was done at a time when the team was already short-staffed.

The staff at Bailey serves the public in many ways. They work with surrounding schools to provide job shadowing and other career programs. As well, they work with the Community Work Experience Program that trains unemployed citizens to do various jobs. One such worker gained enough knowledge and is now a temporary Corps employee. To end a busy year the project also provides a holiday delight for its visitors with "Christmas on the Mountain", a display of Christmas decorations leading up to the Visitor's Center on top the mountain.



*R. D. Bailey Lake named for Judge Robert Bailey saw record flooding this year as it was hit four times..*

*File Photo*



# Flood

*Continued from page 1*

one mile above the flooded neighborhood, contributed to the flood. The district issued a regulatory permit to the developer for the project despite opponents that said development would cause flooding in Huntington. According to Corps hydraulic engineer observations, the project did not significantly add to the flood.

During the permit process, Huntington District hydraulic engineers evaluated the developers plan to control runoff from the project. The developer designed a system of rock-lined creeks to collect and carry water to two retention ponds located near Fourpole Creek. These ponds are designed to hold the collected water and slowly release it into the creek as flood flows in the creek recede. Of the two retention ponds called for in the design, one was completed and worked as designed. The other pond is not yet completed.

Flooding in the Fourpole Creek has increased as the 23.5 square-mile basin has been developed. However, the larger development projects such as Kinetic Park and the Ramada Inn site located immediately across the highway do not add to flooding because they've been designed with retention ponds that capture runoff and slowly release it into the creek.

The culprit of the flooding is most likely mother nature, who dumped 4.4 inches of rain in a 24-hour period March 19, according to the National Weather Service.

Hydraulic Engineer Tim Curran said flood control operations took place in four of Huntington District's basins to include the Big and Little Sandy Rivers, Twelve-pole Creek and the Little Kanawha. East Lynn and Beech Fork Lakes held back water to prevent flooding on Twelve-pole Creek and Grayson Lake was shut to prevent flooding in the town of Grayson.

"The Ohio really got up, but missed flood stage by a little more than five feet," he said. Gages in the Kanawha River basin almost recorded flood flows, however, the Corps was going on expected winter flows versus lesser

summer flows, Curran added.

Heavy rainfall in the region also caused sides of hills to give way and slide. This occurred in Grundy and soils and rock covered rail lines located at the base of the Grundy business district relocation site. This

is a flood-safe 13-acre site being developed by the Corps that will house the new Grundy business district. The existing often-flooded business district is being taken by the Virginia Department of Transportation for a highway expansion.



*Photo by Steve Wright*

***KineticPark retention pond captures and holds runoff next to surging Fourpole Creek. Notice the black barrier that separates the pond from the creek.***



*Photo by Steve Wright*

***Fourpole Creek waters spill out of banks into Huntington residential area. Citizens place blame on upstream development at Kinetic Park for the flooding. The Corps hydraulic engineers disagree.***



# Retirees Corner

## Group aiming to keep retirees in touch

By JOHN TURNER  
COEHDRA Publications  
Coordinator

**COEHDRA Happenings:** If you recall, last month I went into great detail to encourage those of you who would be “first timers” to come out and be a part of our Corps of Engineers Huntington District Retiree Association (COEHDRA) Committee and gave specific instructions on the current entry procedures and directions into the Federal Building and the sixth floor conference room. Possibly because of a “senior moment” I regretfully failed to let you know that the location for April’s meeting is to be held at the Ponderosa Restaurant. Seems there’s a noon “dinner bell” that must be answered...right Bevo?

**COEHDRA Web Page:** Keeping up with the times is what your retiree association is attempting to do by “spreading the word” about COEHDRA through the use of high-tech communications. That’s right, committee member Randy Sortet is in the process of developing our COEHDRA Webpage on the world wide internet. Plans are presently in the drafting stage and once completed, specific instructions for you computer buffs on how to “log on” will be forthcoming.

**Retiree Activities:** I’ve previously mentioned that the goal of COEHDRA is to go beyond the once-a-year reunion that is annually held at our Retiree’s Luncheon and to develop and make available additional retiree activities for our enjoyment. Plans are now

being discussed to have a “Retiree’s Canopy/Tent” at this year’s Huntington District Annual Picnic at the Beech fork Lake. Specific details will be provided as we draw nearer to this special summer “family” outing.

**You tell us:** Following on with “retiree activities” COEHDRA wants to hear from you as to what types of annual group activities best suits your fancy. This will be accomplished by having all attendees at this year’s Annual Luncheon complete an activities questionnaire. So come prepared to share your desires.

**Staying in touch:** To all of you present active Corps employees who will one day be retiring, COEHDRA wants to stay in touch with you and hopefully your feeling is mutual. In an effort to assure that we don’t lose contact, you will find in your future retirement packages, an information sheet requiring your completion and submission as directed. So be on the lookout, COEHDRA wants you!

**Retiree Luncheon Update:** Well by the time you receive this Castle issue, we’ll be looking our Annual Retiree Luncheon square in the face. That’s right, this year’s special summer event is scheduled to be held at the Four Seasons located at 905 Third Avenue, Huntington on Friday May 24, 2002. Don’t forget that we’ve scheduled ex Marshall and now NFL Football star Troy Brown as our guest speaker. The luncheon is \$15 per person which in part helps defray various administrative costs. If you have not yet completed the following registration form, please do so immediately. Hope to see you there!

### *Retirees Luncheon Registration*

**When:** Friday, May 24

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Where:** Four Seasons

905 Third Ave.

Huntington, W.Va.

**Cost:** \$15 per person

**Name and Address:**

Year of Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations: \_\_\_\_\_

For those planning to attend, fill out this registration, make check payable to Ken Crisp and mail to his address, 501 Norway Ave., Huntington, W.Va. 25705-1537.

**Deadline for reservations is May 20.**

## Another reason to think positively

A sunny outlook not only helps you live longer, it also protects you against heart disease. Recent research from Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions has found that optimistic people are much less likely to develop chest pain from heart disease or even to have a heart attack.

Researchers followed 600 healthy people with a family history of heart disease and discovered that those with a positive outlook were only half as likely to develop heart disease compared to those who were more pessimistic.

Researchers also found that even if you already have heart disease, optimism can prevent you from further ravages from the disease.

—Adapted from the WebMD Web site.

# Corps secretary also violinist

By ELIZABETH SLAGEL  
Public Affairs

To see Mary Beth Browning at work is to know her only partly.

The Engineering and Construction's conscientious, sometimes serious—



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**“She is artistic in every way.”**

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**Frank Matthews, Executive Assistant**

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sometimes jokester Office Automation Clerk has a talent to be envied.

Forget watching her file reports, answer the phone or take notes at a meeting. When this 39 year-old woman has a bow in one hand and a stringed instrument in the other, the transformation is astounding.

“Music was something I enjoyed, but it wasn’t anything I could make a living at. So I went into the business field and kept music as something I enjoyed,” Browning said of her schooling through Marshall University.

In 1983 she received a degree in secretarial studies. Three years later she started working for the Huntington District as a student aide while returning to Marshall University and later becoming a permanent employee. Currently, she is working on her portfolio to receive a regent’s degree.

At age 6, Browning picked up the guitar. She further explored music after hearing her inspiration Mr. David Becker, now a retired string specialist with the Cabell County School System.

“He played the violin and made it look simple. Of course, it’s not,” she says.

Becker started her on violin when she was in the fourth grade in the public school orchestral program and instructed her all the way through high school.

“She was a very good student and played quite well. And she also went to all-state orchestra and played in the Cabell County Youth Orchestra,” Becker recalls.

“I think it has been a good

thing for her. She’s always had a lot of possibilities. She has excellent retention. She learned things easily and memorized things that surprised me.”

It is not unusual for Browning to play something strictly by ear, such as Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata on the piano or Canon in D by Pachelbel on violin. Her music numbers are classical from the Baroque period with preference to Bach and Handel.

The only musical talent Browning recalls in her family goes back to her maternal great grandmother who played the piano. Not interested in the piano herself, she plays any of the other stringed-family instruments.

Through the years she has played with various orchestras to include the Marshall University Symphony Orchestra and the Fullerton Symphony Orchestra while living in California. She was selected as a state soloist for four years with the West Virginia Association Solo and Ensemble Festival, Region II.

Executive Assistant Frank Matthews recalls watching young Mary Beth Browning at school music functions with his daughter. “She is artistic in every way.”

Although he is used to hearing her play, he said he feels very proud every time he watches her play. Relying on her artistic capability, Matthews asked her to keep up with the District Engineer scrapbooks. She has done several to date.

Her music is mostly recreational now. She does play at least three weddings a year. However, you won’t hear her play at her own wedding this month, she said.

Browning is also a member of the International Training in Communication Club where she won the Mid-America Region Writing Contest in 1999. She is also a member of Grace Gospel Church.



# Lights camera action

## Do you have your 30-second commercial?

By PEGGY NOEL  
Public Affairs

When Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers became Chief of Engineers, one of his first directives to Corps team members was to develop a 30 second commercial. Why? Well

when your neighbor, grandmother or friend from high school asks you what you do and how it relates to what the Corps of Engineers does, then you'll be able to tell them.

So get your 30 second commercial ready. When you've developed your commercial, why

not send it to Public Affairs and we'll publish it in Castle Comments.

You never know when Gen. Flowers, a Corps customer or your friendly public affairs staff may want to hear yours.

### **Sharanna Romans Program Analyst Project and Programs Management Division**

"I work for the Corps of Engineers. I am an active member of several teams that protect the public through dam safety assurance, acid mine drainage remediation, decontamination & decommissioning and flood protection projects. In my job as program analyst, I serve as the financial point-of-contact and support other team members. I make every effort to keep the teams funded and resolve financial issues in order to help the team members progress towards their goals."



### **Greta Jackson Realty Specialist Encroachment Section, Management and Disposal Branch Real Estate Division**

"My duties as a Realty Specialist in the Encroachment Section entail researching data to determine necessary actions to resolve encroachments located within the Muskingum Area Projects in Ohio. I maintain data in the Real Estate Management Information System (REMIS) on 3,000+ structures (suspected encroachments) which may have been illegally placed within government-owned flowage easement areas. These data include the landowner's name and address, the elevations of the structures, flowage easement tract number, and mapping information. In most instances, the flowage easements prohibit the construction or placement of structures in these easement areas. Sometimes the landowners are unaware of the flowage easement and sometimes they are aware of the government's rights, but proceed to build anyway. My job is to "resolve" these encroachments through a variety of methods. These methods include grandfathering, which is a determination that the structure is legally in place in accordance with the government's easement rights. An encroachment resolution policy was developed in 1982 specifically for the Muskingum Projects by the Secretary of the Army in

cooperation with the Ohio Congressional delegation. Upon determining whether the structures violate the government's rights, we either offer



landowners a Consent to Easement Structures and Waiver of Liability document or seek the removal of the structure. The method of resolution, in accordance to policy, depends on such factors as the age of the structure and its first floor and low ground elevations.

My job is important because I help to enforce the flowage easement rights purchased by the United States. More importantly, the primary mission of the 14 Muskingum Projects is flood control. If existing encroachments were to remain and new encroachments were continually built with no action taken, the storage capacities of the dams would be altered, thus, limiting our Muskingum Area Projects' abilities to control flooding. In the event of a flood, the losses and devastation would be magnified if the flood control projects could not thoroughly accomplish their missions. Encroachment resolution is my role in helping the Corps accomplish its flood control mission and protect the public."

# Huntington District People

## Protest

*Continued from page 5*

many tri-state industries such as BASF, Allied Signal, Aristech Chemical, Armco Coke and Steel, Dow Chemical and Dupont.

With their working knowledge of the Clean Air and Water Act, OVEC now opposes mountaintop mining.

OVEC coordinator Denise Poole said, "This is a very serious issue and the Corps of Engineers' permitting process is really contributing to what we now refer to as mountain range removal. This is getting so devastating, it's entire ranges."

She went on to say that the goal of the protest was to make the community aware that the Corps is violating the Clean Water Act by

approving valley fill permits. "The big overall goal for the Corps is to have them sit down at the table and have citizens and communities input before approving these permits."

While she said the Corps was only part of the problem, protestors carried signs that were directed at the engineer district as protestors chanted, "rotten to the Corps (core)."

OVEC is not the only group active in fighting mountaintop mining. Other groups include the Coal River Mountain Watch, West Virginia Rivers Coalition and the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

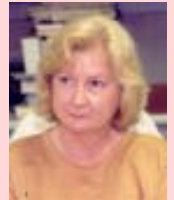


*Photo by Elizabeth Slagel*

*It may have looked like a joke, but protestors weren't fooling around this April Fool's Day as about 50 showed up on the Corps' doorstep April 1.*

## Employee thanks all who helped

Real Estate Division's Sally Keefer suffered a tragedy March 21 when she learned her



home was on fire while at work.

An electrical fire burned her entire residence at Buffalo Creek Road in Wayne County, West Virginia.

No one was hurt, although she says one cat is still missing.

She said she would like to thank all those who made donations and offered their thoughts and prayers.

## Condolences

•To Rita Smith and her family on the loss of her father Earl Black. He passed away March 28.

•To retiree Allan Elberfeld and his family on the loss of his father Robert Elberfeld March 19.

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Official Business

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